

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A network node comprising:
 - a central processing unit (CPU) for controlling functionality of the network node;
 - a plurality of network ports for establishing contact with a network over a plurality of network lines;
 - 5 an RS-232 serial port for establishing communications with a server over a serial cable, or with the modem;
 - a switch for controlling the RS-232 port,
 - wherein when the switch is in a first setting the RS-232 port is capable of communicating with the server over the serial cable, and when the switch is in a second position the RS-232 port is capable of communicating with the modem;
 - 10 a modem for establishing communications with a contact device over a telephone system; and
 - 15 a memory for storing programs and data, the programs executable by the CPU, the memory comprising:
 - a network management program for analyzing network traffic on the network ports, identifying an emergency condition according to the network traffic, and generating an associated emergency condition identifier;
 - 20 at least a contact telephone number of the contact device;
 - at least an emergency message; and
 - an emergency call-out program for utilizing the modem to dial the contact telephone number and send the emergency message to the contact device according to the emergency condition identifier.
- 25 2. (cancelled).
3. (original) The network node of claim 1 wherein the network node is a management switch.
- 30 4. (original) The network node of claim 1 further comprising a database, the database comprising a plurality of entries, each entry comprising:

- a condition event that corresponds to a possible value of the emergency condition identifier; and
corresponding message data;
- the emergency call-out program containing code to index into the database according
5 to the emergency condition identifier to locate an entry and to leave a message at the contact device according to the message data in the located entry.
5. (currently amended) A method for providing emergency calling functionality to a network node, the network node connected to a network and comprising a network management program for identifying an emergency condition according to traffic on the network, the method comprising:
- 10 providing the network node with a modem to connect to a telephone system;
providing the network node with a server;
providing the network node with a switch to select between the modem and the
15 server;
providing at least a contact telephone number of a contact device on the telephone system;
providing at least an emergency message;
selecting a contact telephone number and an emergency message according to an
20 emergency condition of the network as identified by the network management program; and
causing the modem to dial the contact telephone number and send the emergency message to the contact device over the telephone system.